

circumference of the roller element and inclined relative to the direction of media advance.

A2  
5. (Amended) A roller element according to claim 4, wherein said at least one raised portion in the form of a continuous band has a substantially uniform dimension in the direction of said axis.

6. (Amended) A roller element according to claim 5 wherein the edges of said at least one raised portion in the form of a continuous band possesses no discontinuities.

A3  
9. (Amended) A roller element according to claim 7 wherein the surface of the roller element has non-raised portions adjacent to each raised portion, the area of each raised portion lying within the range 30 to 90% of the total area of the raised portion and its respective adjacent non-raised portions.

11. (Amended) A roller element according to claim 10, which has a helix at each end, the helices having opposed hands.

12. (Amended) A roller element which is arranged to be mounted in a media-advancing device with its axis extending transversely of the direction of media advance such that the roller element engages a media along the direction of said axis, wherein the roller element comprises one or more rows of balls mounted for rotation in a holder.

A4  
13. (Amended) A roller element according to claim 12, comprising two parallel rows of balls.

14. (Amended) A roller element according to claim 12, wherein the balls are mounted in the holder with a degree of play along the length of the rows.

15. (Amended) A roller element which is arranged to be mounted in a media-advancing device with its axis extending transversely of the direction of media advance such that different parts of the surface of the roller element successively engage with and then disengage from the media, wherein a line

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joining the points on the surface of the roller element which disengage from the media at successive moments in time, is inclined relative to the direction of media advance.

16. (Amended) A hardcopy apparatus comprising a roller element according to claim 1, biased against a drive roller member with the media being arranged to advance therebetween.

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